

**Governor's Taskforce on  
Improving Mental Health Services  
and Crisis Response**

## Initial Taskforce Recommendations

January 31, 2014

*\*\*Final Taskforce recommendations are due October 1, 2014\*\**

- 1) The Taskforce recommends a 12-hour emergency custody order period that includes tiered levels of notification every four hours. Four hours after execution of the emergency custody order, if the CSB prescreener believes that the individual meets the commitment criteria and has not been able to locate a bed, the prescreener shall notify the state hospital serving the region. Eight hours after execution of the emergency custody order, if neither the CSB prescreener or the state hospital serving the region has been able to locate a bed, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Central Office shall be notified. DBHDS Central Office may assist in the search for a bed and as a safety net, the state hospital serving the region will ultimately be designated as the facility of temporary detention if a private bed cannot be located.
- 2) The Taskforce endorses the Governor's proposal to extend the period of temporary detention from the current 48 hours to 72 hours with a minimum period of 24 hours prior to a commitment hearing.
- 3) The Taskforce recommends that the law enforcement agency that executes the emergency custody order notify the applicable community services board upon execution.
- 4) The Taskforce endorses the Governor's budget for new mental health funding but also agreed that the amount of funding was a step in the right direction, but not substantial enough to make a significant, positive impact on the system. More funding would need to be included in the future.
- 5) The Taskforce supports expanding secure assessment centers (drop-off centers) and crisis stabilization units for children and adults across the Commonwealth as the highest priorities for funding.
- 6) The Taskforce supports expanding access to telepsychiatry.
- 7) The Taskforce supports expanding funding for CIT training for law enforcement officers throughout the Commonwealth.
- 8) The Taskforce also recommends including a two year sunset clause on its recommendations to ensure that any new laws are meeting the needs of the Commonwealth.